

SOURCE: 59 FR 21672, Apr. 26, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

§ 542.1 Procedures for selecting new lines that are likely to have high or low theft rates.

(a) *Scope.* This section sets forth the procedures for motor vehicle manufacturers and NHTSA to follow in the determination of whether any new vehicle line is likely to have a theft rate above or below the median theft rate.

(b) *Application.* These procedures apply to each manufacturer that plans to introduce a new line into commerce in the United States on or after April 24, 1986, and to each of those new lines.

(c) *Procedures.* (1)(i) For each new line introduced before the 1997 model year, each manufacturer uses the criteria in appendix C of part 541 of this chapter to evaluate each new line and to conclude whether the new line is likely to have a theft rate above or below the median theft rate established for calendar years 1990 and 1991.

(ii) For each new line to be introduced for the 1997 or subsequent model years, each manufacturer shall use the criteria in appendix C of part 541 of this chapter to evaluate each new line and to conclude whether the new line is likely to have a theft rate above or below the median theft rate.

(2)(i) For each new line to be introduced before the 1997 model year, the manufacturer submits its evaluations and conclusions made under paragraph (c)(1)(i) of this section, together with the underlying factual information, to NHTSA not less than 18 months before the date of introduction. The manufacturer may request a meeting with the agency to further explain the bases for its evaluations and conclusions.

(ii) For each new line to be introduced for the 1997 or subsequent model years, the manufacturer shall submit its evaluations and conclusions made under paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of this section, together with the underlying factual information, to NHTSA not less than 15 months before the date of introduction. The manufacturer may request a meeting with the agency during this period to further explain the bases for its evaluations and conclusions.

(3) Within 90 days after its receipt of the manufacturer's submission under

paragraph (c)(2) of this section, the agency independently evaluates the new line using the criteria in appendix C of part 541 of this chapter and, on a preliminary basis, determines whether the new line should or should not be subject to § 541.2 of this chapter. NHTSA informs the manufacturer by letter of the agency's evaluations and determinations, together with the factual information considered by the agency in making them.

(4) The manufacturer may request the agency to reconsider any of its preliminary determinations made under paragraph (c)(3) of this section. The manufacturer shall submit its request to the agency within 30 days of its receipt of the letter under paragraph (c)(3) of this section. The request shall include the facts and arguments underlying the manufacturer's objections to the agency's preliminary determinations. During this 30-day period, the manufacturer may also request a meeting with the agency to discuss those objections.

(5) Each of the agency's preliminary determinations under paragraph (c)(3) of this section shall become final 45 days after the agency sends the letter specified in paragraph (c)(3) of this section unless a request for reconsideration has been received in accordance with paragraph (c)(4) of this section. If such a request has been received, the agency makes its final determinations within 60 days of its receipt of the request. NHTSA informs the manufacturer by letter of those determinations and its response to the request for reconsideration.

§ 542.2 Procedures for selecting low theft new lines with a majority of major parts interchangeable with those of a high theft line.

(a) *Scope.* This section sets forth the procedures for motor vehicle manufacturers and NHTSA to follow in the determination of whether any new lines that will be likely to have a low theft rate have major parts interchangeable with a majority of the covered major parts of a line having or likely to have a high theft rate.

(b) *Application.* These procedures apply to:

§ 542.2

49 CFR Ch. V (10–1–01 Edition)

(1) Each manufacturer that produces—

(i) At least one passenger motor vehicle line that has been or will be introduced into commerce in the United States and that has been listed in appendix A of part 541 of this chapter or that has been identified by the manufacturer or preliminarily or finally determined by NHTSA to be a high-theft line under § 542.1, and

(ii) At least one passenger motor vehicle line that will be introduced into commerce in the United States on or after April 24, 1986 and that the manufacturer identifies as likely to have a theft rate below the median theft rate; and

(2) Each of those likely submedian theft rate lines.

(c) *Procedures.* (1)(i) For each new line that is to be introduced before the 1997 model year and that a manufacturer identifies under appendix C of part 541 of this chapter as likely to have a theft rate below the median rate, the manufacturer identifies how many and which of the major parts of that line will be interchangeable with the covered major parts of any other of its lines that has been listed in appendix A of part 541 of this chapter or identified by the manufacturer or preliminarily or finally determined by the agency to be a high theft line under § 542.1.

(ii) For each new line that is to be introduced in the 1997 or subsequent model years and that a manufacturer identifies under appendix C of part 541 of this chapter as likely to have a theft rate below the median rate, the manufacturer shall identify how many and which of the major parts of that line will be interchangeable with the covered major parts of any other of its lines that has been listed in appendix A of part 541 of this chapter or identified by the manufacturer or preliminarily or finally determined by the agency to be a high-theft line under § 542.1.

(2)(i) If the manufacturer concludes that a new line that is to be introduced before the 1997 model year has a likely submedian theft rate and will have major parts that are interchangeable with a majority of the covered major parts of a high theft line, the manufacturer determines whether all the vehicles of those lines with likely sub-

median theft rates and interchangeable parts will account for more than 90 percent of the total annual production of all of the manufacturer's lines with those interchangeable parts.

(ii) If the manufacturer concludes that a new line that is to be introduced for the 1997 or subsequent model years has a likely submedian theft rate and will have major parts that are interchangeable with a majority of the covered major parts of a high theft line, the manufacturer shall determine whether all the vehicles of those lines with likely submedian theft rates and interchangeable parts will account for more than 90 percent of the total annual production of all of the manufacturer's lines with those interchangeable parts.

(3)(i) For new lines to be introduced before the 1997 model year, the manufacturer submits its evaluations and identifications made under paragraphs (c)(1)(i) and (2)(i) of this section, together with the underlying factual information, to NHTSA not less than 18 months before the date of introduction. During this period, the manufacturer may request a meeting with the agency to further explain the bases for its evaluations and conclusions.

(ii) For new lines to be introduced for the 1997 and subsequent model years, the manufacturer shall submit its evaluations and conclusions made under paragraphs (c)(1)(ii) and (2)(ii) of this section, together with the underlying factual information, to NHTSA not less than 15 months before the date of introduction. During this period, the manufacturer may request a meeting with the agency to further explain the bases for its evaluations and conclusions.

(4) Within 90 days after its receipt of the manufacturer's submission under paragraph (c)(3) of this section, the agency considers that submission, if any, and independently makes, on a preliminary basis, the determinations of those lines with likely submedian theft rates which should or should not be subject to § 541.5 of this chapter. NHTSA informs the manufacturer by letter of the agency's preliminary determinations, together with the factual information considered by the agency in making them.

(5) The manufacturer may request the agency to reconsider any of its preliminary determinations made under paragraph (c)(4) of this section. The manufacturer must submit its request to the agency within 30 days of its receipt of the letter under paragraph (c)(4) of this section informing it of the agency's evaluations and preliminary determinations. The request must include the facts and arguments underlying the manufacturer's objections to the agency's preliminary determinations. During this 30-day period, the manufacturer may also request a meeting with the agency to discuss those objections.

(6) Each of the agency's preliminary determinations made under paragraph (c)(4) of this section becomes final 45 days after the agency sends the letter specified in that paragraph unless a request for reconsideration has been received in accordance with paragraph (c)(5) of this section. If such a request has been received, the agency makes its final determinations within 60 days of its receipt of the request. NHTSA informs the manufacturer by letter of those determinations and its response to the request for reconsideration.

PART 543—EXEMPTION FROM VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION STANDARD

Sec.

543.1 Scope.

543.2 Purpose.

543.3 Application.

543.4 Definitions.

543.5 Petition: General requirements.

543.6 Petition: Specific content requirements.

543.7 Processing an exemption petition.

543.8 Duration of exemption.

543.9 Terminating or modifying an exemption.

AUTHORITY: 15 U.S.C. 2025, delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50.

SOURCE: 52 FR 33829, Sept. 8, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

§ 543.1 Scope.

This part establishes procedures under section 605 of the Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act (15 U.S.C. 2025) for filing and processing petitions to exempt lines of passenger motor vehicles from part 541 of this

chapter, and procedures for terminating or modifying an exemption.

§ 543.2 Purpose.

The purpose of this part is to specify the content and format of petitions which may be filed by manufacturers of passenger motor vehicles to obtain an exemption from the parts-marking requirements of the vehicle theft prevention standard for passenger motor vehicle lines which include, as standard equipment, an antitheft device if the agency concludes that the device is likely to be as effective in reducing and deterring motor vehicle theft as compliance with the parts-marking requirements. This part also provides the procedures that the agency will follow in processing those petitions and in terminating or modifying exemptions.

§ 543.3 Application.

This part applies to manufacturers of high-theft passenger motor vehicles; and to any interested person who seeks to have NHTSA terminate an exemption.

§ 543.4 Definitions.

(a) *Statutory terms.* All terms defined in sections 2, 601, and 605 of the Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act are used in accordance with their statutory meanings unless otherwise defined in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) *Other definitions.*

Line or car line means a name which a manufacturer applies to a group of motor vehicles of the same make which have the same body or chassis, or otherwise are similar in construction or design. A "line" may, for example, include 2-door, 4-door, station wagon, and hatchback vehicles of the same make.

NHTSA means the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

§ 543.5 Petition: General requirements.

(a) For each model year through model year 1996, a manufacturer may petition NHTSA to grant exemptions for up to two additional lines of its passenger motor vehicles from the requirements of part 541 of this chapter. For each of model years 1997 through 2000, a manufacturer may petition NHTSA to grant an exemption for one additional line of its passenger motor